1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tuvalu	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Uganda	76.0	6.6	92.7	2.8	107.1	4.7
Vanuatu	1.7	0.2	1.8	48.1	2.2	9.2
Yemen	246.4	30.8	278.8	10.0	1185.0	2009.3
Zambia	50.4	23.0	66.5	40.6	108.1	86.2

Source: DGCIS data

Recommendations of ARC on SEZs

3885. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) has favoured sweeping changes in the policy regarding the setting up of SEZs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government on the basis of recommendations of ARC propose to take further action in this regard; and.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Certain suggestions which *inter alia* include the need for impetus to land reform; speedy implementation of national policy on rehabilitation; avoidance of prime agriculture land for SEZs; locations of SEZ in backward areas; encouragement to SEZs promoted by farmers; restriction on land for non-processing areas in SEZs; fiscal incentives to SEZs etc. have been made by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission; in its Seventh Report on 'Capacity Building for Conflict Resolution'. These are currently under examination.

CAG findings in functioning of SEZs

3886. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG has recently found several flaws in the functioning of SEZs of the country as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether on the basis of CAG recommendations, the Union Government proposes to take any corrective steps and to remove various flaws in the functioning of the SEZs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Report of the

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) for the year ended March, 2007 on Performance Audit on Union Government—Indirect Taxes, have *inter alia*, raised certain issues relating to Special Economic Zones (SEZs). These issues mainly relate to achievement of Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) through deemed exports; duty foregone on inputs used in exempt products cleared in DTA; non achievement of NFE positive by certain units; violation of conditions of Letters of Permissions (LOPs); short levy of duty on Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) sales, etc.

(c) and (d) In its audit report, the scope of which covered 2061 Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units, C&AG has observed that 22 units in two SEZs had been achieved the prescribed positive Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) mainly through domestic sales. However, it is to be noted that as per figures compiled for the year 2007-08, physical exports from the SEZs are of the order of Rs. 64623 crore, which is 87% of their total turnover. During this period, the domestic supplies made by SEZs were about 9% and sales in domestic tariff area, not counted for positive NFE, was about 4%. The Approval Committees under the Development Commissioners constituted for all Zones, which comprise of representatives from Customs, Income-tax, State Governments etc. have been directed to monitor the performance of the SEZ units.

Registration of Geographical indications

3887. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Geographical Indications have been registered in India during the last one year and how it compares with the rest of the world;

(b) how many patents have been registered/granted in India during the last one year and how they compare with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), China and European Union;

(c) whether India is lagging behind in patent registration from developed countries and China; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Thirty-one Geographical Indications (GIs) have been registered in India during the last one year (from April 2007 to March 2008) under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. India compares favourably, with the rest of the world considering that statutory protection for 61 Geographical Indications has been granted in less than 5 years. Many countries have yet to provide for *sui generis* protection for GIs.

(b) to (d) The number of patents granted by the Indian Patent Office (IPO) during the last year and that of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the European Patent Office (EPO) and the State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO), as available from their respective websites, are as under: